



The Battlefield Dispatch

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park expands partnership

Gateway to Freedom

The Bessie Smith Cultural Center in collaboration with the Mary Walker Foundation and Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is proud to present "Gateway to Freedom," an exhibit that will be on display from February 1 through April 30, 2016, in the Chattanooga African American Museum located at the Bessie Smith Cultural Center.

African American history can be told in many ways.

Slavery led to the American Civil War, the bloodiest struggle in the history of the United States and one that involved much fighting in Tennessee and Georgia, including the Chattanooga area.

Our goal is to stimulate interest, to motivate good human relations through understanding and forgiveness, and to instill learning through the mistakes and triumphs of the past.

Some early efforts toward the abolition of slavery actually began in East Tennessee. This region produced the first abolitionist newspaper and saw the formation of underground networks to assist enslaved Africans to escape to freedom.

The contributions made by men who made up the regiments that served in the Chattanooga area will be highlighted in the exhibit "Gateway to Freedom."

Many of the men escaping the chains of slavery to Chattanooga heeded Frederick Douglass' call, in which he said, "Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship." This was indeed the case of the United States Colored Troops in Chattanooga.

We will highlight the exhibit with Civil War artifacts and historical accounts of actual African American soldiers, along with celebrating the 151st year of the passing of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. There is an entrance fee to gain access to the museum and exhibition.

During the "Gateway to Freedom" exhibition, the Bessie Smith Cultural Center will host three educational programs that tie into it. These programs will be facilitated by Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and are free and open to the public.

Saturday, February 27 at 2 pm
*For Justice and Equality: A
Chickamauga Veteran's Crusade*

A veteran of the Battle of Chickamauga and the Battles for Chattanooga, Albion Tourg   continued to lead the fight for equality after his wartime service. In fact, he crusaded against inequality in the South, representing Homer Plessy in one of the most landmark cases in United States history.

Saturday, March 12 at 11 am
*A World Turned Upside Down: The
United States Colored Troops and
Camp Contraband in Chattanooga*

After the Union Army captured Chattanooga in the fall of 1863, the city became a destination for freedom-hungry African Americans throughout East Tennessee and North Georgia. By the end of the war, armed African American soldiers patrolled the streets and bridges of Chattanooga and black laborers transformed the city into a bustling hub primed for postwar growth during Reconstruction.

Saturday, April 30 at 11 am
*Your Old Father Abe Lincoln is Dead
and Damned: The Memphis Riots of
1866*

Though the Civil War ended a year previous, tensions in the early days of Reconstruction ran high and finally boiled over in the streets of Memphis on May 1, 1866. The following days left many wondering if the war was truly over, and if so, what had it truly accomplished.

Superintendent's Sidebar

By Superintendent Brad Bennett

2016 has arrived, which means that the much-anticipated 100th anniversary of the National Park Service has officially started. Your public servants at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park, with the cooperation of multiple partners, have been working hard to plan a wide range of programs and projects to honor the past and to prepare for the future.

We invite you to join us during this year-long Centennial celebration. Events will be held throughout the park, from Chickamauga Battlefield to Signal Point, from Orchard Knob to Lookout Mountain, and from Missionary Ridge to Moccasin Bend. The goal of the Centennial – *to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates* – cannot be achieved by simply opening the doors of our two visitor centers in Georgia and Tennessee and just waiting for the public to arrive.

Yes, we will continue to offer many of our traditional programs in the park for the 1 million visitors who travel long distances to experience this historically significant landscape. However, you will also see park rangers out in neighborhoods near the park – on Glass Street in East Chattanooga, at the downtown Bessie Smith Cultural Center, and in Coolidge Park on the North Shore, to name a few – engaging with communities and sharing new stories. Whether this is your first visit to this national park, or your 100th, it is my sincere hope that you have a safe, enjoyable, and meaningful experience. Happy Centennial!



A Park Ranger's Top Five Questions (and Answers)

By Park Ranger Todd Milsaps

While on patrol in Chickamauga Battlefield and observing our visitors in the midst of various forms of “Finding Their Park,” I see that some are hiking trails, others are attempting to find that specific monument that represents their great-grandfather’s service during the Civil War battles that took place on these grounds, and others are simply unwinding after work with a jog or a bike ride.

As I stop and talk to park visitors, they ask questions that can vary enormously, from serious law enforcement questions to lighthearted queries about the daily encounters of a national park ranger.

Inevitably, I find that certain questions seem to find their way into the conversation more than others. With that in mind, I decided to put together an unofficial Top 5 List of the most commonly asked questions I hear from park visitors.

Q: Can I picnic / play ball / fly kites / sun bathe, etc. at the Wilder Brigade Monument (Wilder Tower) or other open fields?

A: The park has designated the large field known as the Recreation Field (located at the gravel parking area at the fork of Glenn Kelly Road and Chickamauga-Vittetoe Road) for various types of recreational activity. Picnicking is allowed in any of the designated picnic areas. All other areas of the park are managed for the purpose of preserving and interpreting the historic landscape per the mission of the national military park.

Q: Where can I fly my drone / model airplane / radio-controlled flying machine in the park?

A: Radio-controlled airplanes, etc. are prohibited from being flown in the

national park. Drones (unmanned aircraft) specifically were banned from national parks in June 2014 until their impact can be fully determined.

Q: Can I fish in the park? If so, do I need a license?

A: Although there are not many places to fish in the park, fishing is indeed allowed anywhere you wish to fish! A valid state fishing license is required for all fishing activities on the park and it is a citable federal offense if found to be fishing without a license.

Q: Can I let my dog run loose and play as long as it's in a large open field or on a trail away from people?

A: All pets must be on a leash under the owner's control at all times.

Q: Have you ever seen “Green Eyes” (the urban legend ghost of the Chickamauga Battlefield)?

A: The only green eyes I have seen over the years are in the reflection of a coyote's eyes.

Answers to these questions (except Green Eyes) and more, including the park's firearms policy, can be found on the park's website:

<http://www.nps.gov/chch/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm>



A National Park Service law enforcement vehicle patrols at Bragg Reservation on Missionary Ridge. Park Rangers are ready and willing to answer any and all questions concerning Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

Mercy Street – Chattanooga

By Park Historian Jim Ogden

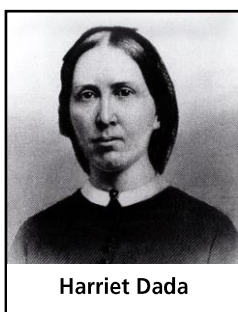
Chattanooga as a hospital center, first for the Confederate States and then for the United States, is yet another way to reflect the increasing importance of the city as the Civil War progressed. From scenes of chaos and unimaginable misery as the city was first described when hundreds of sick Confederates descended upon it after the evacuation of Nashville in February 1862, Chattanooga was transformed into a “modern” hospital center providing first-class care for thousands of Atlanta Campaign wounded and ill in the spring and summer of 1864.

A number of the historical themes associated with this aspect of the city and region’s Civil War experience—expanded roles for women as nurses and matrons, location in a region of divided sentiment, a Union garrison town in the South, the effective legal status of African Americans, emancipation and abolition, oath taking, and medical advances, to name a few—are illustrated in the made-for-television drama “Mercy Street,” presently airing on PBS. Based primarily on the experience of Nurse Mary Phinney (whose biography, based on her letters and diaries, can be found online at <https://archive.org/details/armynurse00olnhrich>), Mercy Street is set in Alexandria, Virginia, mostly in the Mansion House Hotel (comparable to a fancier version of the Crutchfield House of Chattanooga). The proximity of Washington, D. C., makes Alexandria’s overall experience different from Chattanooga’s, but Alexandria was a Southern city in a region of divided sentiment and a Union garrison and hospital town as well.

If “Mercy Street” piques your interest in Chattanooga’s experience as a hospital center, there are a few good accounts, either in print or online, which would be valuable to explore.

While Chattanooga’s Union hospitals have had less attention, the memoir of one of the women who worked in those hospitals in 1864 and 1865, Harriet Dada, has been published:

Raus, Edmund J., ed. *Ministering Angel: The Reminiscences of Harriet A. Dada, A Union Army Nurse in the Civil War* (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: Thomas Publications, 2004)



Interestingly, after some initial training in New York City, Dada was first posted in Alexandria, being sent there by Superintendent of Army Nurses Dorothea Dix with the directive, “You are needed in Alexandria,” a line similar to one by Dix’s character to Phinney’s in the first episode of Mercy Street. Mostly associated with other hospitals in Alexandria and not the Mansion House, Dada subsequently became associated with medical personnel serving the Union 12th Corps, and it is that connection that brought her west, to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and then Chattanooga in 1864. Assigned to General Hospital No. 1, her reminiscence relates the last minutes of a good number of her severely ill patients, many of whose graves you can

find in the Chattanooga National Cemetery.

“Mercy Street” is primarily a made-for-television drama, albeit a PBS one. However, if you take time to watch it and investigate some of the real history, it can be a means to a better understanding of what happened here, in the region of the Gateway to the Deep South, that makes this region so important in the story of our nation’s tragic but transformative Civil War.

[Read More About It](#)

Chattanooga as a Confederate hospital center is addressed in:

Schroeder-Lein, Glenna R. “Confederate Army of Tennessee Hospitals in Chattanooga,” *The Journal of East Tennessee History*, no. 66, (1994): 32-58

For the larger system of which Chattanooga’s Confederate hospitals were a part, see Dr. Schroeder-Lein’s:

Confederate Hospitals on the Move: Samuel H. Stout and the Army of Tennessee (Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1994), 226.

An account of a nurse and matron in those hospitals, including in Chattanooga and Ringgold, is that by Alabamian Kate Cumming:

Richard Barksdale Harwell, ed., *Kate: The Journal of a Confederate Nurse* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1959; reprint 1998)

Another account of a nurse working in Ringgold is:

Beers, Mrs. Fannie A. *Memories: A Record of Personal Experience and Adventure During Four Years of War* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Press of J. B. Lippincott Company, 1889); available online at <https://archive.org/details/memories00unkngoog>



Frame one- and two-story Confederate-constructed hospital buildings on the southern portion of Cameron Hill; the Masonic Academy on the right. Subsequently this complex served as Union General Hospital No. 1.

Get Lost

By Park Ranger Justin Young

In the spring of 2015 Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park formed its first Search and Rescue team. The team consists of highly motivated volunteers from the park's interpretation, law enforcement and maintenance staff. In its infancy, the team attended regular training sessions to cover search principals, low/angle rescue, litter carry, and wilderness first aid. The team also acquired packs, gloves, helmets, lights, and a Search and Rescue uniform shirt.

In its first year, the team responded to and correctly handled seven Search and Rescue events. The highlights were two deceased visitor litter carry outs,

one suicide attempt thwarted, several missing children/adult hikers along Lookout Mountain Trail system were located, and one rock climber who fell and broke her arm in several places below Glenn Falls.

For 2016, the goal is to acquire more gear and accomplish more focused training. The National Park Service is known nationwide as the agency that directs you to the outdoors and comes to your rescue when things do not go as planned. Park staff wants to continue that tradition and ensure that visitors are enabled to access the park and cared for if they become disabled.

Although the park spans multiple locations, the two primary areas are

Chickamauga Battlefield and Lookout Mountain Battlefield. Both battlefields have extensive trail systems with typical hazards found in nature as well as anomalies. On the mountain, there are over three miles of rock climbing available and the trail systems traverse steep hillsides and skirt sheer bluffs. When hikers, climbers, bikers, and horse riders negotiate this type of terrain, it is only a matter of time before calamities strike.

If you are injured or lost in or around the park, you can rest assured that the Search and Rescue team will come to the rescue.

The Battlefield Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

Editor

Christopher Young

Copy Editor

Eddie Coons

Chief of Interpretation and Education

Kim Coons

Photographers

Will Sunderland

Todd Milsaps

Comments? Write to:

Kim Coons

Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP

P.O. Box 2128

Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742

How Do You Become Great

By Volunteer Coordinator

Will Sunderland

"Anyone can be great, because anyone can serve." On February 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered these words via a sermon in Atlanta, Georgia.

Students from Baylor School have taken these words to heart. Under the guidance of Jim Hooper, a history teacher at the Chattanooga school, students have used the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service to give back to their local national park—Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Projects have included removing invasive plant species, collecting litter, resurfacing a trail and more.

In 2016, Baylor students joined neighborhood volunteers to clean up the area around Sherman Reservation on the north end of Missionary Ridge. In particular, overgrowth by English ivy and other non-native plant species on a sidewalk forced residents and visitors to the park to walk in the street. Volunteers cleared the sidewalk and

collected over a dozen bags of litter to improve the area, providing a safe option for people to walk. After the project, Park Ranger and Volunteer Coordinator Will Sunderland led a hike into Sherman Reservation and spoke to the volunteers about the power and importance of serving the needs of others.

"The soldiers who fought here in 1863 understood the impact of serving others besides themselves," Sunderland said. "Today we have the opportunity to extend their service and that of people like Dr. King in our own lives and to the lives of others."

Volunteers like the Baylor students and the neighborhood residents are not the only ones giving back to their national park. As the National Park Service kicks off its Centennial celebration in 2016, we hope you will consider being great by serving someone in your area.

To learn more about the Volunteer-in-Parks program at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, please visit www.nps.gov/chch/getinvolved/volunteer



Volunteers-in-Parks Logo